

# A DIALOGUE *between* JAMES and GEORGE.

James. I Say it was a mean and scandalous Action; and the Gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace are a Parcel of meddling impertinent Fellows.

George. Sure you must mistake the Matter; the Justices who are put in Commission to see the Laws executed would hardly themselves give Offence by acting contrary to those Laws.

James. I don't know that, but this I am sure of, that they have given very great and very just Offence to all Men of *Sense* and *Honour*; have they not driven a most worthy Gentleman from his Retreat at Wheldrake, where he had been some Months, having obtained Leave from the Secretary of State to reside there?

George. Having obtained Leave from the Secretary of State to reside there! I thought it had not been the Custom in England for very worthy Gentlemen to ask Leave from the Secretary of State where to reside; I am afraid you'll be forced to own by and by that this very worthy Gentleman has done something amiss, which not only occasioned but justifies the Restraint put upon him.

James. I am far from owning any such Thing; 'tis true the Government was pleased to believe him active in the late Rebellion, but they have not yet been able to prove him *Openly* concerned.

George. No, perhaps not; Prudence will point out a Thousand Artifices to prevent the Loss of a large Estate; Fear of Ruin has more than once conquer'd the most violent Inclinations; it was much safer for the Son to be *openly* concern'd than the Father, for then the Person only was in Danger, but the Estate secure; tho', if I'm not mistaken the Father himself was so far obedient to the Violence of his indiscreet Zeal as to occasion his being sent close Prisoner to London along with One of the Pretender's Spies.

James. 'Tis true he was, but the Government could not clearly prove him in Open Rebellion, a Year's Confinement in England was the Punishment of his Indiscretion.

George. Methinks so easy a Punishment; when even Justice would have undone him; ought to have been gratefully acknowledged by an *inoffensive* at least, if his Conscience would not allow him to express it by a *Loyal* Behaviour.

James. Pray how did he ever abuse the Clemency that was shewn him?

George. Has not the whole Time of his Confinement been one continued Abuse of it? Was not the Place of his Residence the general Rendezvous of all the Papists and disaffected People in the Country; did they not flock to him from every Side as to the Champion of their Cause, and the known Assister and Encourager of their Treason? So outrageous was the Zeal of himself and Family that their intire Conversation was nothing else but the Language of Disaffection and Disloyalty. This was so far from being an Expression of his *Gratitude*; that it was an infallible Argument of his deserving to feel the Severity of that Punishment he had escaped.

James. I don't see that any Gentleman is oblig'd to foregoe the Acquaintance he loves, whatever may be their Principles or Designs; and I look upon the Interruption given by Magistrates to such an Union as *impertinent* and *rude*, as I look upon the Practice of offering Oaths to People, when 'tis known they don't care to take 'em, as the greatest *Injustice* and *Cruelty* imaginable.

George. 'Tis certainly very unjust and cruel in Magistrates to see that the Laws of their Country are executed, especially when their Liberties and Religion depend upon the Execution of them, as it is certainly very wrong in Parliaments to contrive Laws for their Establishment and Preservation; a Master of a Family ought not to deter his Servants from setting Fire to his House, or hinder them from letting in *Thieves* to plunder and destroy it.

James. Tho' the Parliament does make such Laws, yet it is not necessary that the Magistrates should be impertinent enough to execute them; there are many Acts of Parliament which are never made use of, and why should not this sleep as undisturbed as others?

George. One Neglect does not justify another; it is rather an Inducement to be more exact in the Execution of those that are observed; if some Acts are neglected it is a Fault and a Contradiction to the Intentions of those by whom they were framed, and I heartily wish all the Laws, as they were made to be, were universally enforced, and especially this needful one of offering the Oaths to disaffected and suspicious Persons.

James. Perhaps, if it was, it would be far from answering the End you propose by it; it happens sometimes that Men take Oaths and yet forget the Obligations they are under to observe the Contents of 'em.

George. More Shame for those who have Villany enough to do so; I have indeed of late heard of a Sett of Men who have taken repeated Oaths to the Government they live under; and yet publicly wish Destruction to that very Government, who have abjured by the most solemn Engagements a Popish Pretender, and yet have Baseness enough to wish Success to his Cause; have drunk the most treasonable Healths and called for the most obnoxious Tunes at a publick and annual Feast in the Face of Magistracy itself, in Defiance of Law, and in Opposition to the Engagements of Conscience; — a Cause supported by such detested Villany as this can never prosper; the Breath of such Wretches must make their *White Rose* blush, and the Hanover Horse we doubt not will still graze amongst us; when those who would drive him out by such infamous Practices shall themselves be sent to graze with the *unsuccessful* Hero, and without *five Shillings* in their Pocket.

James. Since then Oaths, as you find, are not so religiously observed as you cou'd wish, and indeed as their Nature requires they shou'd be; methinks you had better desist from offering 'em any longer, for as the tendering them in general is an unmannerly and barbarous Practice, so the tendering them to this Gentleman in particular is *detested* and *despised* by Men of *Sense* and *Honour*.

George. By Men of *Sense* and *Honour* I suppose you mean the Men of your own Party, such as either take the Oaths to the Government, and don't care to give themselves the Trouble to observe 'em, or such as don't choose to take 'em at all; but, as there are such Fellows in the World, it is a sufficient Reason why all imaginable Care shou'd be taken to know and distinguish them, and see who are our Friends and who our Foes.

James. This Method of distinguishing possibly may not be so sure as you imagine; for tho' the Gentleman of whom we are speaking did not think proper to take the Oaths, yet he appears in *Print* to be a very good Subject and very thankful to His Majesty for the Favour he has granted him in allowing him to go home in Quietness.

George. I suppose you mean the aukward Paragraph in a scurrilous News-Paper drawn up not by himself, I dare say, but by some boyish Hand, and seems rather intended to ridicule than to do him any real Service.

James. 'Tis true the Paragraph was not drawn up by Himself; but if you think it was done by a boyish Hand you are much mistaken, for I do assure you it was the Work of his Counsel learned in the Law, and if you think any body else had a Hand in it you cast your Eyes upon a wrong *Place*.

George. I really ask the Gentleman's Pardon, for by the Oddity of thanking his Majesty in a groveling News-Paper, and by the strange Mixture of Scurrility with which those Thanks are express'd, I took it to be the Work of *Caesar Ward's Devil*, little imagining any Gentleman of the least Practice could have ought to do in the Contrivance and Composition of so ridiculous and *Billingsgate* a Piece, however since his Client has thought proper to fly his Country rather than take the Oaths to his Majesty, the End which the Justices proposed by it is answered; we are freed from the Influence of a dangerous Neighbour, and I heartily wish he had taken all his Friends along with him.

James. Then the worthiest Men in the Country, all the Men of *Sense* and *Honour* must have gone, who will never forgive the Justices for depriving them of so firm a Friend, and assure yourselves that for this and for every other Service you shall render the Government we will never cease to pursue you with Scurrility and Abuse, and that in as open a Manner as we dare.

George. For this as you please; but take Care it be not in too open a Manner lest you should expose yourselves to Corporal Danger; as some of your worthy honest Friends have lately done; who had rather hear of the Devil than the next Assizes; I would advise you to be there, and then you'll see what a ridiculous Figure they'll cut; I dare say you'll find sufficient Cause to be ashamed both of them and their Party. — Sir, your Servant.